

Dear Competitors,

I am writing to announce a change to the Competition Rules.

I am authorizing this change due to a change in policy regarding the distribution of academic credit for participation in MCHB competitions, which was finalized yesterday. Therefore, an amendment to the competition rules is required to bring them into compliance with the new policy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me directly.

**Summary of the change in policy:**

The change in policy is simple, and likely advantageous to all competitors.

There are two ways to receive credit:

1. All competitors are eligible for one credit after successfully completing both preliminary rounds and demonstrating a good faith effort in their preparation.
2. All competitors who advance to the semi-final round are eligible for a second credit.

**There is no longer any credit opportunity for submitting a written *Motion in Limine*. Therefore, do not write or submit a written motion in limine.**

**What has NOT changed:**

**To be clear, oral arguments for *motions in limine* remain part of the competition structure.**

Each team may (and is encouraged to) orally argue *motion in limine* to suppress evidence at the start of the round. It is a strategic choice to move to suppress evidence or not. Pursuant to the competition format, each team is given 4 minutes to argue for a motion, and four minutes to respond to their opponent's motion. While your judges are instructed to reserve their ruling initially, when the relevant evidence is offered at trial, you may renew your motion to receive a formal ruling by the judge.

The evidence you are moving to suppress **MUST** be one of those pieces listed in Part A of the Motion Prompt Instructions, which was distributed to you at the time of registration. Parts B and C no longer are relevant. See attached Motion Prompt Instructions for reference.

Yes, you may argue more than one motion during the time allotted to your team during pre-trial motions. See page 5 of your rules, which read in relevant part:

**2. Motions in Limine, Pretrial Motions, Motions to Dismiss, and Motions for Summary Judgment—** Motions *in limine* are limited to those regarding evidence. You may make any pretrial motions you wish within the allotted time. You may make motions to dismiss or for summary judgment orally and present

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argument on them. We will instruct the judges to reserve their rulings on motions at the start of trial, but allow for a ruling if the competitor renews the objection when the relevant evidence is brought up at trial.

**Formal text of the rule change:**

*The below language has been added to the competition rules.*

**ACADEMIC CREDIT ELIGIBILITY**— Each competitor is eligible to receive up-to two (2) Academic Credits for their participation in this competition. The MCHB Faculty Advisor has ultimate say and discretion in approving academic credit requests for this competition.

Competitors who put in a good-faith effort and successfully complete both preliminary rounds are eligible for one academic credit. This is contingent upon each competitor sufficiently preparing either an opening or a closing, a direct examination of a witness, and a cross examination of a witness. The Competition Committee, in their discretion, reserve the right to recommend to the MCHB Faculty Advisor to withhold credit for competitors who did not demonstrate a good faith effort in the Committee's opinion.

All competitors are eligible for a second academic credit if they advance to the semi-final round.

Following up with one clarification, in response to a question: